

Statistical Brief

Prepared by the State Center for Health Statistics



For the Council on Health Policy Information

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HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN – Recent Survey Estimates

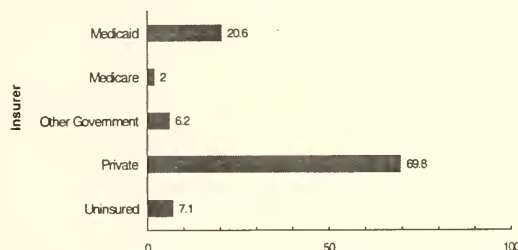
According to a recent telephone survey of North Carolina households, seven percent of the state's population ages 0-17 had no health insurance during the entire year prior to the survey. Although at variance with other (higher) estimates,¹ this percentage is similar to those obtained in recent telephone surveys conducted in Arkansas and Wisconsin (unpublished data).

The data of this Brief are from the North Carolina Health Profile (NCHP) telephone survey conducted during the Fall of 1995. The NCHP was funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Readers should be aware that all statistics are subject to the usual limitations of telephone sampling and respondent classification errors. Respondents were usually the children's primary caregivers.

Among its 1994 recommendations, health insurance reform was a top priority of the state's Health Planning Commission. The Commission's specific recommendations for insurance reform fell into three areas: expanding Medicaid to cover more people with limited resources; reforming insurance laws to make health insurance coverage more affordable and portable; and establishing an on-going system of monitoring the numbers of uninsured.²

Figure 1
Private Insurance Covers About 7 in 10 North Carolina Children; Medicaid Covers 2 in 10

Percent of children by insurance coverage during past year



Source: North Carolina Health Profile, Fall 1995.

Sources of Children's Health Insurance

Figure 1 depicts the reported health insurance coverage of children during the year prior to the 1995 NCHP. Coverage could have been for only a short period, while "uninsured" applies to the entire past year. Thus, at any given point in time, many more than seven percent of children may have been without health coverage. The percentages by insurer add to more than 100 because some children had more than one type of insurance during the past year.

Among the 70 percent of children with private insurance during the past year, 9 in 10 had insurance through a related household member's employer or union.



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